

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Chapel Hill

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Approximately 2 miles ESE of Mint Spring; E side of State Route 654;
W side of Christians Creek; .8 mile NNW of intersection of State
Routes 654 and 652.

CITY, TOWN

Mint Spring

☒ VICINITY OF

Sixth (M. Caldwell Butler)

STATE

Virginia

CODE
51

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY
AugustaCODE
015

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC
☐ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
☒ ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE
☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Moffett

STREET & NUMBER

Route 2, Box 415

CITY, TOWN

Staunton

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia 24401

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Augusta County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Staunton

STATE

Virginia 24401

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2) (see Continuation Sheet #1)

TITLE

(1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE

1957

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D. C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT

☐ GOOD

☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED

☐ RUINS

☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED

☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Chapel Hill is an imposing two-story I-house built ca. 1834 among the rolling farmlands of southeastern Augusta County in the Valley of Virginia. Constructed according to a vernacular model, with some details showing the influence of Germanic decorative practices in the Valley, Chapel Hill is distinguished from other local houses of its type by its use of several academic motifs and a set of fine French scenic wall-paper in the parlor.

The original section of Chapel Hill is a three-bay, single-pile structure built of brick laid in Flemish bond on the facade and in five-course American bond on the ends and on the rear. This brickwork has pencilled joints and employs queen closers at the corners and at the openings. The facade is marked by a central pedimented pavilion with an elliptical fanlight over the doorway and another in the pediment. The doorway also incorporates sidelights with wooden interlaced mullions within its symmetrically molded frame. The lintel over the door and sidelights consists of six plain fascia bands, each corbelled out slightly beyond the one below; the lintel assumes a convex curve over the double doors. A large open porch projects from the pavilion. An old photograph shows that this porch was never covered but that the present iron balustrade replaced a wooden one with a "sheaf of wheat" motif.

All of the windows on the two long sides are triple windows with 6/6 sash flanked by 2/2 sidelights. Over the first-floor windows are blind elliptical arches with white plastered tympana. These Regency-type motifs at once echo the use of elliptical fanlights in the pavilion and recall the German-derived practice of using less conspicuous plastered elliptical and round arches over windows. Found on many early 19th-century, non-academic buildings in southern Augusta County, these arches can be traced to 18th- and 19th-century German buildings in the lower Shenandoah Valley and in Pennsylvania and ultimately to post-medieval German and Dutch buildings in Europe. Similar arches, but round-headed rather than elliptical, are used on the 6/6 gable end windows. A very plain cornice embellishes the eaves of the gable roof, which is crowned by two interior end chimneys.

The plan of Chapel Hill is the standard I-house variety, two stories tall, one room deep, with a single room on either side of the central stair passage. The projection of the pavilion is not reflected in the plan.

The decoration of Chapel Hill--its graining and marbleizing, its fine mantels, and its handsome trim--is overshadowed by the striking, almost perfectly preserved set of French scenic wallpaper in the west parlor. Entitled "Le Petit Decas," the design was first published in 1823. Its idyllic garden scenes, replete with gondoliers, fountains, and picturesque bridges and temples, reputedly depict the gardens at Versailles. Below the pedestal chair rail is a wainscot composed of a paper incorporating floral and mechanical motifs in a non-pictorial design. The large-scale, black-painted mantel consists of coupled Roman Doric colonettes with a symmetrically molded frieze and entablature blocks. The jambs and back of the fireplace are decorative cast-iron plates. Set in front of the fireplace is a (probably) mid-19th-century, cast-iron stove square in plan, encircled with engaged colonettes, and capped by an elaborate urn finial. The six-panel, applied-mold door is grained in imitation of bird's-eye maple, as are the other first-floor doors.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Chapel Hill, Augusta County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 6 & 7 PAGE 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
March 1977, April 1978 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

7. DESCRIPTION

In the passage is the semi-circular, open-string stair, which has pierced and scrolled brackets, a horizontally scrolled round banister, and tapered turned newel and balusters. The risers and passage baseboard are painted in imitation of black marble. Original Carpenter locks survive on the front and rear doors.

Another mantel similar to that in the west room is found in the east room, but one Roman Doric colonette rather than two is used on either side of a mantel otherwise worked at the same scale as that in the other room, creating a somewhat top-heavy effect on the east room mantel. The bowed shelf here is treated with a rope mold, while an applied-mold wainscot carried around the room completes the decoration of the room. The rear triple window has been turned into a doorway leading to a mid-20th-century ell.

At the end of the 19th century, a two-story brick wing was added to the east end of the house. Set with its gable to the front of the house and recessed from the facade of the main block, it has a double-pile, side-hall plan. There is no decoration of note on the interior, but there was once a Classical portico, since replaced, carried across the front.

In the reëntrant angle created by the juxtaposition of these two blocks, a one-story, shed-roofed brick ell accommodating a kitchen and a dining room was added in the mid-20th century.

Behind the house are several early outbuildings. These include a one-cell frame office with some Gothic details, with a pyramidal-roofed frame smokehouse and a gable-roofed dairy adjacent to it. A kitchen, formerly part of this group of domestic outbuildings, was destroyed in the present century.

Northwest of the house a few yards beyond the outbuildings are a frame hay barn and a frame drive-in corn crib. These date from the early 20th century, as does the large frame bank barn set about 100 yards southwest of the house.

The register bounds have been drawn to include all of the domestic and agricultural outbuildings, the hillside on which the house sits, which is an integral part of its setting, and the nearby knoll upon which stood the 19th-century Episcopal chapel from which Chapel Hill takes its name.

DJ

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Decorative Arts
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

ca. 1834

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Chapel Hill, set among the rolling farmlands of southeastern Augusta County, is at once a characteristic example of vernacular housing in the upper Shenandoah Valley and a product of the infiltration of stylish architectural trends into that area. While its plan, its painted decoration, its exaggerated interior woodwork, and the plastered arches over its windows reflect popular building practices in the Valley, the house's elliptical fanlights, three-part windows, facade pavilion, and, especially, its exceptionally rare and well-preserved French scenic wallpaper all reflect the post-Georgian architectural modes of the early 19th-century and make it one of the most distinguished of Augusta County's Federal residences. Built ca. 1834 by John Knight Churchman, Chapel Hill remains in the hands of his descendants.

Although Churchman, later an Augusta County justice, is popularly thought to have built Chapel Hill at about the time of his marriage in 1819, the Augusta County land records show that he did not acquire land in the area of Chapel Hill until 1826, when he paid \$3315 for a 226-acre tract then in the possession of Jacob and Elizabeth Spotts. Churchman began to develop the tract soon after his purchase; the land tax books charged him with \$750 worth of new buildings in 1829, increasing the value to \$2100 for another new building in 1831. Three years later, the building valuation jumped to \$5350, and the clerk noted that "old buildings (were) deducted, new buildings added". It is likely that this last increase accounted for the present, elaborately appointed mansion house, which Churchman named after the nearby Episcopal Chapel (now destroyed) built on his land in 1831.

John Knight Churchman lived at Chapel Hill until his death in 1870. Mrs. R. W. Moffett, one of the present owners, is a descendant of the builder.

VDS/du

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Augusta County Deed Books 22, 27, 43, 46, 48, 49.

Land Tax Books 1782-1850.

Will Books 11, 43.

Clem, Gladys. "Old Homes of Augusta County: Chapel Hill." Augusta County Historical Bulletin. Vol. 9, No. 2, 1973.

Gieger, H. J. Genealogical Chart of the Jouett Family of Virginia and Kentucky, c. 1937.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 50 acres

UTM REFERENCES

E17 668700 4214940

A 1,7 6,6,8,9,0,0 4,2,1,5,1,2,0

B 1,7 6,6,9,2,0,0 4,2,1,4,9,6,0

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 1,7 6,6,9,3,4,0 4,2,1,4,4,9,0

D 1,7 6,6,9,1,6,0 4,2,1,4,9,4,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The acreage comprising Chapel Hill is bounded by a line beginning at a point at intermittent stream 1100' E of State Route 654 and approximately 2400' NW of the intersection of State Routes 654 and 651; thence extending 1100' SE following said stream; thence extending 1600' SSE to the north side of State Route 651; thence extending 600' west along north side of said route to intersection with Route 654; thence extending 2200' NW along E side of State Route 654; thence extending NE 800' to point of origin.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

May 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

221 Governor Street

(804)786-3143

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Richmond

Virginia 23219

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ☐

STATE ☒

LOCAL ☐

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE JUL 18 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

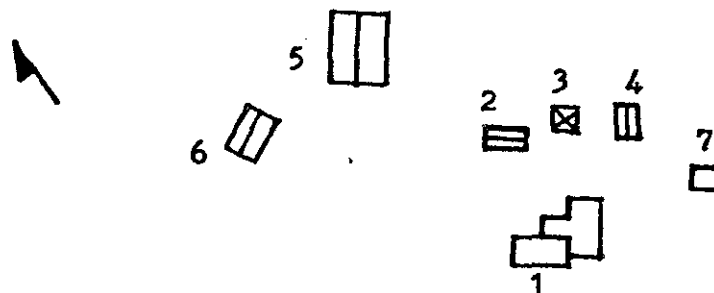
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

DATE

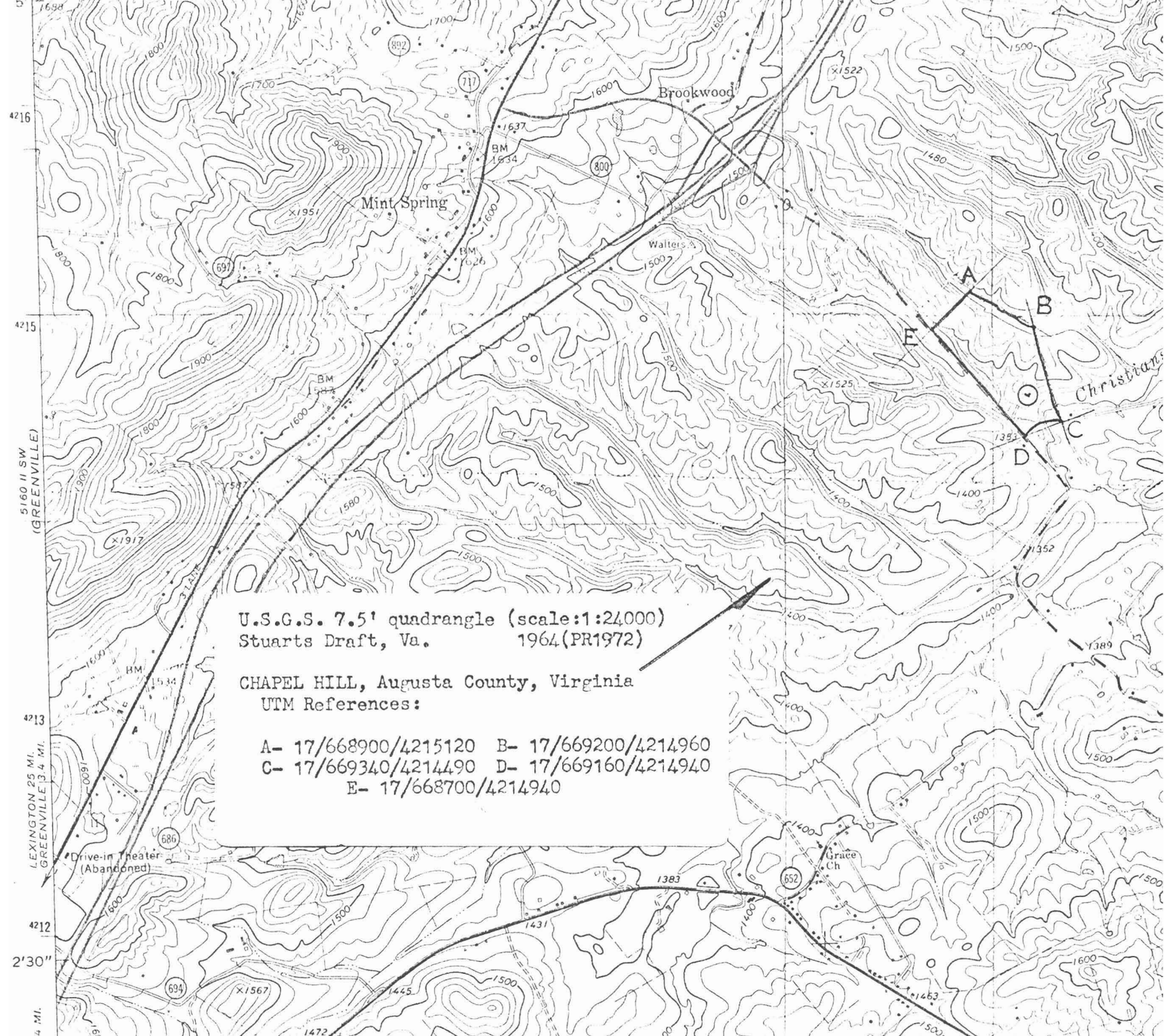
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Chapel Hill
Augusta County, Virginia
Sketch Map - Not to Scale
Virginia Historic Landmarks
Commission - 1978



1. Main House
2. Office
3. Smokehouse
4. Dairy
5. Hay Barn
6. Drive-in Corn Crib
7. Site of Kitchen
8. Bank Barn

State Route 654



U.S.G.S. 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24,000)
Stuarts Draft, Va. 1964(PR1972)

CHAPEL HILL, Augusta County, Virginia
UTM References:

A- 17/668900/4215120 B- 17/669200/4214960
C- 17/669340/4214490 D- 17/669160/4214940
E- 17/668700/4214940